



PRESS RELEASE

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Winter Wheat Yields Down From July

Based on conditions as of August 1, Idaho's forecasted winter wheat yield of 82.0 bushels per acre is down 2 bushels from a month ago and down 7 bushels per acre from last year's record yield, according to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service. Producers expect to harvest 710,000 acres of winter wheat with a total production of 58.2 million bushels, down 12 percent from last year. Idaho's spring wheat yield is forecast at 68.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from the July 1 forecast, but down 4 bushels per acre from 2005. Production of 32.6 million bushels from 480,000 harvested acres is up 1 percent from last year. Barley production is forecast at 45.1 million bushels, down 14 percent from last year's 52.2 million bushels. If realized, this would be Idaho's lowest barley production since 1975. Harvested acreage, at 530,000, is 70,000 acres less than last year and the lowest level since 1967. The expected yield of 85.0 bushels per acre is unchanged from last month, but down 2 bushels per acre from 2005. Oat yield increased 2 bushels from last month and is also up 2 bushels from last year. Production from 20,000 harvested acres is expected to total 1.32 million bushels, up 3 percent from a year ago. Sugarbeet production of 5.01 million tons from 187,000 harvested acres is up 11 percent from a year ago. Yield of 26.8 tons per acre is down from 2005's 27.1 tons per acre. Dry bean production is expected to total 1.85 million cwt from 103,000 harvested acres, a slight decrease in production from last year. Yield is forecast at 1,800 pounds per acre (clean basis), down 100 pounds from last year. Chickpeas, grown primarily in North Idaho, account for an increasing proportion of Idaho's dry beans. This year's chickpea planted acreage accounts for 42 percent of Idaho's dry beans, more than any other class. Alfalfa hay production is estimated to be 4.99 million tons, a 4 percent increase from 2005. The expected yield for alfalfa is 4.30 tons per acre, up from last year's 4.20 tons and equal to the record high achieved in 1998. Other hay production is expected to total 714,000 tons, up 20 percent from last year. Yield for other hay is estimated at 2.10 tons per acre, down from last year's 2.20 tons per acre. Idaho apple production is estimated at 70 million pounds, unchanged from 2005. Prune and plum production is expected to total 3,000 tons, up from last year's 2,000 tons. Hop producers are expected to harvest 2,777 acres with a yield of 1,630 pounds per acre and production of 4.53 million pounds in 2006.

For the United States, all wheat production is forecast at 1.80 billion bushels, down slightly from the July forecast and down 14 percent from 2005. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 38.3 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month but 3.7 bushels below last year. Winter wheat production is expected to total 1.28 billion bushels. This is up slightly from last month but 14 percent below 2005. The U. S. Yield is forecast at 41.2 bushels per acre, up 0.1 bushel from last month. Spring wheat production is forecast at 464 million bushels, down slightly from last month and 8 percent below 2005. Barley production is forecast at 183 million bushels, down 4 percent from the July forecast, 14 percent below 2005, and the lowest production since 1936. Oat production is forecast at 107 million bushels, 3 percent below the July 1 forecast and 6 percent below last year's 115 million bushels. If realized, this would be the lowest production on record. Dry bean production is forecast at 23.3 million cwt in 2006, down 15 percent from last year but 31 percent above two years ago. Sugarbeet production for 2006 is forecast at 31.8 million tons, 16 percent above last year's production. Corn for grain is forecast at 11.0 billion bushels, down 1 percent from last year and 7 percent below 2004. Alfalfa hay production is forecast at 71.2 million tons, down 6 percent from last year. Other hay production is forecast at 71.1 million tons, down 5 percent from last year. Prune and plum production in Idaho, Michigan, Oregon, and Washington is forecast at 24,000 tons, up 164 percent from last year's weather reduced, record low production but 4 percent below 2004. Apple production is forecast at 9.62 billion pounds, down 2 percent from last year and 8 percent below 2004.

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